



THE
HUMAN
SERVICES
COUNCIL
OF MID-FAIRFIELD

February 23, 2011

To: The Energy & Technology Committee
State of Connecticut General Assembly

I am writing to you to talk about Raised Bill 1024, An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws.

The General Assembly needs to focus policies on attracting economic opportunity back to Connecticut. Updating the telecommunications act this year has the potential to spur investment in broadband and create jobs for the future.

Many other states have already moved well ahead of Connecticut in investing in critical broadband infrastructure needed to attract and retain businesses in our state. Outdated telecommunications laws are holding back Connecticut's future and putting jobs at risk.

Competing states are moving ahead, while Connecticut's telecom laws still contemplate a world of wireline phones.

In order to attract jobs, we need to focus on the root causes and support the dynamics of future growth between sectors of our economy. Telecommunications is a critical lifeline to Connecticut's businesses.

Companies in every sector across the board – large and small, local and global – depend on high-speed Internet.

In healthcare, telemedicine, and broadband-enabled technologies such as Web conferencing, allow patients to access information and care that otherwise is not locally available.

In education, students can take classes remotely, participate in higher-learning courses, advance their degree and have access to additional employment opportunities, all via the Internet.

In business, the barrier to entry is low – people no longer need to save up for their first months rent to open a storefront, they can build a website for free online and reach customers not only in their own backyard but around the globe.

With broadband – the possibilities for healthcare, education and work are truly endless, but without modern laws that foster investment in this critical infrastructure future growth in all of these areas is limited.

The telecommunications act is no longer about traditional landlines and residential consumers. These laws impact every sector of our economy as businesses turn to new technologies to streamline their day-to-day services and deliver consumers cutting-edge products and services.

I encourage you to think about the positive impact Raised Bill 1024 will have on every industry in Connecticut and ask that you take steps to update this critical measure as soon as possible.

Every day we wait, our state is missing out on the benefits of broadband investment and the jobs and opportunities created as a result.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty A. Karkut". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Betty" being more prominent.

Betty A. Karkut
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Duff
Representative Cafero
Representative Perone
Representative Morris
Representative Lavielle
Representative Wood